

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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17

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 /109 W

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R 280900Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5882

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USUN NEW YORK 632

CONFIDENTIAL COLOMBO 3634

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: ISRAELI REQUEST FOR INCLUSION IN UNESCO EUROPEAN REGION

REF: STATE 233519

1. EMBOFF MET WITH ACTING DIRECTOR, UN AFFAIRS, IN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA) SEPTEMBER 28. BACKGROUND ON NEGATIVE DECISION BY UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 1974 AND EXECUTIVE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION LAST FALL THAT DECISIVE ROLE BE GIVEN TO REGIONAL MEMBERS WAS REVIEWED. EMBOFF THEN POINTED OUT DECISIVE IMPORTANCE OF ISSUE TO U.S. RELATIONS WITH UNESCO AND URTED THAT SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT (GSL) SUPPORT EXECUTIVE BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF REGION REGARDING THE ISARELI REQUEST.

2. MDFA OFFICIAL WAS UNINFORMED ON SPECIFICS OF ISSUE BUT WAS WELL AWARE DIFFICULTY IT HAD CREATED FOR U.S. ROLE IN UNESCO. HE TOOK CAREFUL NOTES DURING PRESENTATION AND PROMISED THAT GSL WOULD CONSIDER U.S. VIEWS VERY CAREFULLY.

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3. COMMENT: AS SRI LANKA EITHER ABSTAINED OR WAS ABSENT DURING 1974 DECISION, WE JUDGE IT IS LIKELY TO DO THE SAME OR BETTER THIS YEAR. GSL HAS FOR SOME TIME NOW OPPOSED EFFORTS TO EXCLUDE OR EXPEL ESREAL FROM U.N. IT SEEMS PLAUSIBLE, THEREFORE, THAT GSL MIGHT SUPPORT EFFORTS TO INCLUDE ISRAEL IN EUROPEAN REGION AT GENERAL CONFERENCE. THIS WILL PROBABLY DEPEND, HOWEVER, ON DEGREE OF ARAB OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI REQUEST AND SITUATION ON THE GROUND AT THE CONFERENCE.

REED

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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04 MAY 2006

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